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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



re Application of:

YOSHITAKA NAGAO, ET AL.

Application No.: 09/824,092

Filed: April 3, 2001

For: FACING MATERIAL,
FABRICATING METHOD
THEREOF, SOLAR CELL
MODULE, MANUFACTURING
METHOD THEREOF,
INSTALLING METHOD
THEREOF, AND
PHOTOVOLTAIC
POWER-GENERATING
APPARATUS

Examiner: B. L. Mutschler

Group Art Unit: 1753

December 23, 2002 (Monday)

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 22, 2002,

Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the Group I claims, namely Claims 1 to 22 and 28. The Restriction Requirement is, however, traversed.

Traversal is on the ground that there would not be undue burden in examining the three groups of claims in a single application. In particular, MPEP § 808

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on Dec. 23, 2002 (Date of Deposit)

Damond E. Vadnais, Reg no. 52,310
Name of Attorney for Applicant

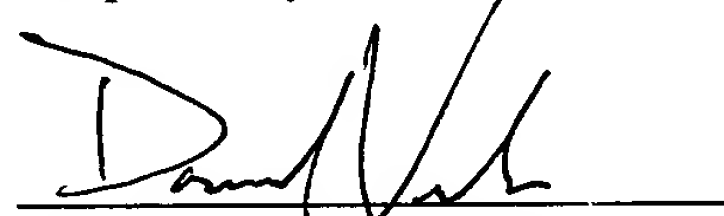
Damond E. Vadnais Dec. 23, 2002
Signature Date of Signature

makes clear that in order to require restriction between independent or distinct inventions, reasons for insisting upon a restriction requirement, such as undue burden, must also be shown. In the present instance, it is not believed that there would be undue burden in examining the three groups of claims in a single application, since the three groups of claims are not so different as would require a burden on the Examiner that is significantly beyond that of the normal burdens of examination.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

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